Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05039 201447Z

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5357

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US, JO, SA, SY

SUBJECT: MESSAGE ABOUT SOVIET PRESSURES ON SYRIA

STATE 177860

- 1. WHILE AWAITING APPOINTMENT WITH FAHD, NOW SET FOR TOMORROW MORNING, I HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO INQUIRE OF HIS CONFIDENTIAL AIDE ABOUT IMPRESSIONS RECEIVED FROM HUSSEIN'S EMISSARY WITH RESPECT TO SOVIET PRESSURES ON SYRIA.
- 2. IT EMERGED THAT SAUDIS ARE INDEED INCLINED, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, TO THINK ABOUT HOW THEY CAN SUPPORT ASAD. SAUDIS ARE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED ABOUT ASAD'S RELIANCE ON HUSSEIN AS CONDUIT FOR INFO TO THEM AND OTHERS. THEY RATIONALIZE THAT IT MIGHT SIMPLY BE A MATTER OF ASAD'S STYLE, OR HIS RELUCTANCE TO HAVE SOVIET EMBASSY IN DAMASCUS NOTING THAT SAUDI AMBASSADOR OR OTHERS HAD BEEN CALLED TO PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. MY SOURCE ADDED THAT THE INFORMATION CONVEYED BY KHAMMASH IS OC COURSE WEIGHED WITH HUSSEIN'S ROLE IN MIND IN VIEW OF HIS TENDENCY, AS SOURCE PUT IT WITH A SMILE, TO "ADD A LITTLE SALT HERE AND A LITTLE PEPPER THERE" TO HIS RENDITION OF WHAT HE HAS HEARD FROM OTHERS.
- 3. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE A REPORT WE HAVE THAT WHEN SECRET

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KHAMMASH SAW SADAT HE DID NOT TOUCH ON THE SUBJECT OF SOVIET

PRESSURE ON SYRIA. KHAMMASH SIMPLY WORKED ON THE IDEA OF ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN AMMAN AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A JOINT STATEMENT BY SADAT AND HUSSEIN ON THEIR RELATIONS. HE GOT THE FIRST BECAUSE, AS SADAT PUT IT, "KING KHALID THOUGHT WELL OF THE IDEA," BUT WAS REFUSED ON THE SECOND.

4. I EXPECT TO BE INQUIRING INTO SAUDI VIEWS ABOUT SOVIET PRESSURE ON ASAD WHEN I SEE FAHD OR SAUD. PORTER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, PEPR, LE, US, JO, SA, SY, UR, EG, (ASAD, HAFIZ), (HUSSEIN I), (FAHD, PRINCE)

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